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## **CITY OF RALEIGH, WAKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ARTS PROGRAM EMPLOYEE ART EXHIBITION**

All current City of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their immediate family members are invited to enter the 8th annual National Arts Program® (NAP) competition and exhibition. The event is sponsored by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

To participate in the NAP competition and exhibition, all participants must complete a registration form by Tuesday, Nov. 9 by 5 p.m. There is no fee to participate in the program.

All accepted artwork will be displayed in the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery in the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St., from Dec. 2 to Jan. 14. A reception for the show's opening will take place on Thursday, Dec. 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participating City of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their families and elected officials will be in attendance. Sponsored by the National Arts Program, the reception is free and open to the public.

For the first time registration for the NAP competition and exhibition can be done online. Interested participants must register by visiting the NAP's Raleigh/Wake County venue page at [www.nationalartsprogram.org/venues/raleigh-wake-county-nc](http://www.nationalartsprogram.org/venues/raleigh-wake-county-nc). Go to the left sidebar button titled "Click here to register online."

Artists who are unable to register online should contact Hannah Costner with the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at [hannah.costner@raleighnc.gov](mailto:hannah.costner@raleighnc.gov) or 996-4687 to get a registration form.

The local NAP competition and exhibition, in collaboration with The National Arts Program® Foundation Inc. of Malvern, Pa., showcases the diverse artistic talents of municipal employees of Raleigh and Wake County and their families. The NAP was conceived by Leonard E. B. Andrews, an art collector, publisher, business executive and journalist, “for the encouragement and development of artistic expression.” A jury of recognized artists and arts professionals will judge all the works submitted.

Cash prizes paid for by the NAP will be awarded in the exhibition’s five artistic classifications: amateur, intermediate, professional, teen (13-18), and youth (12 & under). In the adult classifications, winners will receive \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place. In the teen and youth classifications, \$75 will go to the first- place winner, \$50 to second place, and \$25 to third-place winners. A Best of Show award of \$300 also will be presented. The NAP funds all awards.

To participate in the exhibition, each individual artist may submit one (1) artwork. All entries must be labeled with the artist’s name, title of the work and department affiliation. Artists must bring the artwork to the first-floor lobby of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex during the hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 18. No works will be accepted after the 4 p.m. deadline.

Not accepted will be copies, kits, paint-by-number pieces, photocopies or photographs of artwork, magazine or book illustrations, and random snapshots.

Two-dimensional artwork (painting, poetry, drawings and photographs) must be hardboard mounted and matted, or framed, and ready to hang with d-rings or screw eyes installed on either side of the back of the frame, no lower than two inches from the top of the piece. Artwork must measure no more than 48 inches in any direction and can not weigh more than 50 pounds. Artwork that does not meet size limitations or specifications will be disqualified before judging.

Because there is no space to store artworks after the exhibition, each artist or a family member must remove their work from the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex on Tuesday, Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wake County, the City of Raleigh, and the NAP will not be responsible for unclaimed work. All delivery and pickup of work will be the sole responsibility of the artist.

For more information about the National Arts Program exhibition, contact Hannah Costner, City of Raleigh Arts Commission, at 996-4687 or [hannah.costner@raleighnc.gov](mailto:hannah.costner@raleighnc.gov); or Eleanor H. Oakley, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, at 839-1498, extension 203, or [eoakley@unitedarts.org](mailto:eoakley@unitedarts.org).

{**NOTE:** Attached is image of David D’Amico, the 2010 teen winner in the local National Arts Program competition and exhibition.}